

THE ODD CORNER

To a Cigar.

O, Panatella, you are blent
With much of human element,
And when your form and fate we scan
We think how you resemble man.

We judge you by the wrapper, which
Is thought to make you poor or rich;
And man—by outer garb of his
We reckon what the filler is.

Although man at his fortune mocks,
Like you, he's sometimes in a box;
Like you, his maker's cunning hand
Determines what shall be his brand.

Sometimes you are domestic. He
Is often compelled to be
Again, to honor custom's due
He must provide much revenue.

And man—like you, a helpless thing—
Is made for some one's pleasuring;
Like you, some day he meets his match;
Like you, he many dreams will hatch.

O, Panatella, you and man
Indeed fulfill the selfsame plan.
For in the end aside you're cast
And come to ashes at the last.
—Chicago Tribune.

Paris' Ancient Watch.

One of the curiosities of Paris, Me., is an ancient watch which has been in one of the leading families for generations. Gen. Farwell carried this watch during the war of 1812. Its previous history is unknown, although it evidently came from England at a much earlier date.

The dial is ivory and upon it is a hand painting in colors of a fort with soldiers in the bright colors of the British uniforms drilling in the foreground. Sentinels in red coats stand upon the walls.

The door to this fort is cut through the dial and connected with the mechanism in the interior is a wheel, on which are soldiers in colored uniforms. As this wheel slowly revolves, privates and officers appear to pass through the door of the fort at regular intervals.

It is said to be the only watch of the kind in existence.

On the interior of the case several watchmakers, who have repaired or cleaned it have engraved their names. Among these is Oliver Gerish, Portland's first watchmaker. When he repaired this watch the only jewelry store in the Forest city was in an unfinished chamber. The proprietor had no showcase or counter and kept his money to make change in a wood box in the brace of a beam.

Another man who repaired this watch was Waldron of Norway, who was the first watchmaker in Oxford county.

Vegetable a Dwarf Giant.

Dr. Welwitsch brings news of a wonderful tree which he found growing in the west of Africa and named for himself, the Welwitsch. The extraordinary proportions of a trunk four feet in diameter, with a height of only one foot, make the plant look like a round table. The tree never has more than two leaves, and these are the seed leaves, which appeared when the plant first began to grow, and which it never sheds or replaces with others. They are in themselves remarkable productions, often attaining a length of six feet, with a breadth of from two to two and a half feet, each being cut into numerous ribbon like segments. The flowers form crimson clusters, something like those of the larch. These trees form forests on a tableland some six miles broad, at a height of from 300 to 400 feet above the sea on the west coast of Africa.

Figures Centuries Old.

The famous great gallery at the base of the towers of Notre Dame cathedral, Paris, is decorated with curious grotesque figures which have been made familiar by thousands of reproductions and copies for centuries. The statues were carved and put in place during the twelfth century, yet they still stand exactly as they were placed in position. The inroads of

time and weather have not served to destroy their original lines. As with the statuary of the cathedrals of the middle ages, these statues differ slightly in form, even though they are supposed to be symmetrical.

Opium Smoking in China.

It is generally understood that a large percentage of the Chinese are addicted to the use of opium. This is a misconception. The belief that the Chinese of rank and culture use the drug is due to the prominence given to the cultivation of the plant and the manufacture of opium in the Celestial empire. As a matter of fact, a native who uses opium is looked upon by his superiors as we discuss and classify our drunkards.

The idea that a pill will produce an exhilarating effect on the beginner is also erroneous. One must be accustomed to the use of the drug to get the pleasant effect. The first pipe to an American produces nausea. Two or three will make him sick. If he can stand eight or nine of these "pills" he is apt to dream, but the awakening is always an unpleasant reality.

Fish in Peculiar Prison.

A fisherman on Sebago lake in Maine hooked something while trolling and on reeling in his line found a small log attached. The piece of wood was hollow and the ends filled with refuse. Upon shaking it three small, but very lively bass, fell out into the canoe. The supposition is that they were chased into the log by a larger fish and in some way became prisoners.

Cosmopolitan New York.

Here is a New York court item: A Greek driver for a Chinese firm is accused of running over an Italian boy; he was arrested by an Irish policeman; the boy was attended by a German doctor, and a Hebrew coroner held the inquest. Now a French and Polish lawyer are discussing before a Scotch judge and an American jury whether the firm shall pay damages.

Old English Inns Disappearing.

The old English inns are fast passing away. The "King of Prussia" hostelry at Finchley was recently torn down. It had been running since 1757, and the license had been continuously in the hands of one family since that time. The old "Plow" at Kingsbury Green is said to be 350 years old, and the "King James" at Enfield 990 years old.

Think Dog Committed Suicide.

A dog belonging to Kiernan Gorman of Ansonia, Conn., deliberately walked before a train and was killed. The dog had been nearly suffocated in a fire earlier the same day, and did not seem to know what he was doing. He persisted in remaining near the railroad crossing, and some maintain that he planned to do away with himself.

First Vermont Maple Sugar.

It is said that the first sugar ever made in Vermont was made in Bennington in March, 1763, near the log cabin of Capt. Samuel Robinson, the first settler of the town. The sap was caught in short logs hollowed that held about a gallon. Many pounds of sugar were made and a liquor cask full of syrup.

Good Kind of Cow to Have.

F. L. Ames of North Easton, Mass., boasts of a Guernsey cow which at a Bath competition made 2 pounds 10% ounces of butter in a day. Her average yield of milk since her arrival in this country in 1902 has been 20 quarts daily. This is equal to 2.3 pounds of butter.

Injunction Against Striking Wife.

Ohio has come to the front with a new injunction. It was granted to a man to prevent his wife from going on a strike, and now she has to do all the housework or be in contempt of court.

Treasure in the Sea

An Italian company has been formed to recover the *bulldog* sunk in Vigo bay 200 years ago. It has found one of the old galleons at the very outset of its search, an anchor, a chain and some cannon having been brought up as evidence. The salvors have hopes of raising the vessel bodily and removing the contents at leisure. Vigo, a town in northwest Spain, has figured at least four times in the annals of English war. In 1589, the year after the invincible armada, Sir Francis Drake and Sir John Norris wound up an expedition to Portugal by capturing Vigo, burning the city and ravaging the country. It was in 1702, however, in the fighting days of Queen Anne, that the great "affair" occurred. As an old line has it, "in 1702 brave Rooke did strew the depths of Vigo bay with gold."

War had been declared with France and Sir George Rooke, who had distinguished himself at La Hogue and afterward took Gibraltar while in command of the united British and Dutch squadrons, received information that

Spanish galleons richly laden were then anchored at Vigo. On arriving there he found that the commander of the French escort had protected his convoy by placing them behind an enormous boom formed of masts, yards, chains, cables and casks, but, undeterred, the Torbay, under Vice Admiral Hopsen, crashed through, to be very nearly destroyed, however, by a fire ship. It is said that the latter still had its cargo, which consisted of snuff, aboard, and when it blew up the snuff prevented the flames from making headway.

A complete victory was gained by the allied fleet. According to some accounts five galleons were among the prizes, which had on board 20,000,000 pieces of eight, besides merchandise of equal value. Of the silver fourteen millions were saved and of the goods about five millions. Four millions of plate were destroyed, with ten of merchandise, and about two millions in silver and five in goods were brought away conjointly by the British and Dutch.

Where Men Live Long

A person over 100 is a phenomenon in England, and his or her death is an event to be chronicled. All through Morocco, Algeria and Tunis, however, centenarians are as common as blackberries, and hale young fellows of 70 and 80 are regarded as being on the right side of middle age.

Every traveler in the "Barbary States," as they used to be called, is impressed by this remarkable abundance of centenarians. A gray-bearded old man of 70, who is trying to sell curios to a tourist for thrice their value, exclaims:

"By the beard of the prophet, may my grandfather die if what I tell you is not true!"

Looking at his gray beard, you think he is quite safe in calling down that curse upon himself; but when you make inquiries you find that he really has a grandfather living, aged about 110, and that the old gentleman is still going about doing business on market days.

Life is not wearing in Moslem Africa. A man never does anything in a hurry there. Naturally, he does not even grow old in a hurry. When

he is 70 he is beginning to get over the first flush of youth; he is no longer counted as one of the boys. But not until he is at least 90 does he expect people to pay honor and reverence to him as a veteran, and even then he must take a back seat and listen deferentially when the hale and hearty centenarians approach. In the country districts the centenarians are even more in evidence than in the cities, and many of them are of the softer sex.

Many of the "marabouts," or holy men, who are to be found at the sacred shrines and tombs which are scattered so thickly all over the Barbary States, live to incredible ages. "There is one at Marakesh who is said to be over 150 years old. His body is shriveled up like a mummy's, his face is the color of ashes, and the skin is drawn tightly over his cheekbones, like the parchment on a drum. Yet his eyes are bright and fierce, and he walks unassisted every morning to the tomb, where he sits all day long to receive the offerings of the faithful and listen to their petitions.—London Express.

Thieves Up in Science

It appears that Germans of known bad character are allowed to escape on condition of leaving the country. England is practically the only refuge open to them so they flock here, and among them the expert German burglar visits us in ever-increasing numbers. It is said that Germany is the country of specialists, and the criminal but intelligent Teuton makes a specialty of his business, to which he applies the latest scientific methods. The extent to which the art of burglary has been developed is evidenced by the fact that ingenious house-breaking tools are manufactured, such as portable ladders, portable phosphorous and electric lamps, ratchet drills, sheet iron cutters, adjustable jimmies, pick locks and various kinds of skeleton keys. Some of these are, of course, legitimate and necessary tools, not necessarily nor mainly used for felonious purposes.

Stoddard's Modesty.

As is not the case with many present-day celebrities, no one could justly accuse Richard H. Stoddard with being puffed up with an exaggerated idea of his own greatness.

Any given house once entered the scientific German can open the strongest cast-iron safe by means of an oxy-hydrogen blowpipe, which produces a heat so intense as to melt any metal against which it is directed. The following plan is also practiced: A recent chemical discovery has produced a preparation known as thermite. If a portion of this is placed on the top of a safe a heat is generated so powerful that the toughest steel cannot withstand it and a hole is burned in any desired portion of the receptacle. Doubtless these are the men who are now crowding into England in such numbers under the designation of German workmen; at the same time those who have been already convicted in Germany often adopt an English name so as to conceal their identity as far as possible.—Westminster Review.

"Well," said a friend to him several years before his death, "the papers will say a lot about you when you die."

"My friend," was the poet's quiet reply, "I will scarcely be mentioned."